

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, RP

SUBJECT: SOCIAL WELFARE: WELCOME HOUSE

1. WELCOME HOUSE REPS CALLED ON EA/PHL DEC 14 TO ADVISE US OF PLANS TO VISIT PHILIPPINES IN NEAR FUTURE IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR PROJECT TO PROVIDE WELFARE ASSISTANCE TO UNWED MOTHERS AND ABANDONED CHILDREN. PREVIOUSLY THEY HAD MET WITH, AND RECEIVED ENCOURAGEMENT FROM, PHILIPPINE EMBASSY CULTURAL ATTACHE.

2. AS EXPLAINED TO US, WELCOME HOUSE WAS ORIGINALLY FOUNDED BY PEARL BUCK TO HANDLE CARE AND U.S. ADOPTION OF ASIAN MIXED-BLOOD CHILDREN. SEVERAL YEARS AGO, HOWEVER, MISS BUCK SEVERED ALL TIES WITH WELCOME HOUSE AND ESTABLISHED PEARL BUCK FOUNDATION. BOTH ORGANIZATIONS NOW ARE OPERATING AS COMPLETELY SEPARATE ENTITIES, ALBEIT SHARING SAME OBJECTIVES. WELCOME HOUSE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN KOREA AND VIETNAM, BUT AS RESULT FALL OF SAIGON NOW INTERESTED IN POSSIBLE PHILIPPINE PROGRAM.

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3. AS FIRST STEP, IT IS CONSIDERING AGREEMENT WITH GOP DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT (DSSD) TO HELP FINANCE A CENTER IN ANGELES CITY FOR THE GUIDANCE OF UNWED MOTHERS AND RECEPTION OF ABANDONED CHILDREN.

ALTHOUGH AGREEMENT NOT YET FORMALLY CONCLUDED, WELCOME

HOUSE HAS APPARENTLY COMMITTED ITSELF TO DONATE \$8,100 FOR ONE YEAR TO COVER SALARIES OF CENTER STAFF, WHICH DSSD WILL HIRE. (DSSD WILL BEAR COST OF RENOVATING EXISTING DSSD BUILDING IN ANGELES CITY FOR USE AS CENTER.) PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH DSSD WOULD PROVIDE GRADUALLY DIMINISHING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OVER SEVERAL YEARS WITH DSSD FINALLY ASSUMING FULL SALARY COSTS. AT PRESENT, ORGANIZATION DOES NOT INTEND TO HAVE FULL-TIME REP IN PHILIPPINES.

4. HOWEVER, WELCOME HOUSE BOARD MEMBER AND SECRETARY MRS. HUFFAKER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MISS GRAVES PLAN TO VISIT PHILIPPINES LAST TWO WEEKS OF JANUARY TO MAKE PERSONAL CONTACTS AND CANVASS SITUATION BEFORE ENTERING INTO PROPOSED LONGER TERM DSSD RELATIONSHIP. WELCOME HOUSE HAS BEEN (RATHER POINTEDLY) CAUTIONED BY DSSD AND ANOTHER AMERICAN VOLAG OF THE STRONG PHILIPPINE VIEW THAT CHILD'S BEST INTEREST LIES IN FAMILY PRESERVATION, WHEN PRACTICABLE, OR IN BEING PLACED FOR ADOPTION WITH FILIPINO PARENTS; AND THAT ADOPTION ABROAD IS PERMITTED ONLY IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY DO NOT, THEREFORE, HAVE ANY IMMEDIATE PLANS TO ORGANIZE U.S. ADOPTION PROGRAM FOR FILIPINO CHILDREN.

5. WELCOME HOUSE REPS QUERIED EA/PHL CONCERNING GENERAL STATE US/PHILIPPINE AFFAIRS, LIKELIHOOD OF ESTABLISHING SATISFACTORY WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH FILIPINOS, AND SITUATION IN ANGELES CITY, COUPLED WITH INDICATION OF POSSIBLE INTEREST IN FUTURE EXPANSION OF ACTIVITIES TO OLONGAPO. WE REPLIED IN GENERAL TERMS AND SUGGESTED THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTACT EMBASSY (DCM) DURING JANUARY TRIP FOR FULLER ON-THE-SPOT INFORMATION. ALSO URGED MEETING WITH COMMANDER CLARK AIR FORCE BASE TO APPRISE HIM OF THEIR PLANS AND TO SOLICIT HIS VIEWS, SINCE THEY HAVE ALREADY HAD SOME DISCUSSIONS WITH CLARK OFFICERS WIVES CLUB CONCERNING ANGELES CITY PROJECT.

6. IF EMBASSY HAS ANY PRELIMINARY VIEWS RE WELCOME HOUSE PROJECT WHICH SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO WELCOME HOUSE ATTENTION BEFORE JANUARY VISIT, WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO PASS THEM ALONG.
KISSINGER

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